

# FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## Tasmanian Institution

for the

### BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB

(Incorporated 1933)

and a Brief History of the

### MOVEMENT FOR THE BLIND IN TASMANIA

1887-1937 (Appendix "A")

together with

ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET, year ended  
30 6/37 (Appendix "B")

RETURN OF PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTIONS, ETC., year  
ended 30 6/37 (Appendix "C")

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#### LIFE MEMBERS:

MISS I. DRYSDALE-SPAVEN,  
Launceston.

THOS. LYONS, Esq., Hobart.

MRS. JAS. ROBB, Hobart.

H. C. ABBOTT, Esq., Launceston.

MRS. C. BELLETTE, Glenorchy.

G. P. ADAMS, Esq., Westbury.

W. LEITCH, Esq., Hobart.

MRS. E. B. GIBSON, Perth.

MRS. A. C. HIRST, Bothwell.

MRS. A. BINGHAM, Gormanston.

MRS. E. A. WINTER, Burnie.

MRS. T. H. DAVIES, George  
Town.

MRS. J. A. von ALWYN,  
Launceston.

O. HOLDER, Esq., Fingal.

E. H. KENNEDY, Esq., Hobart.

MRS. F. W. HICKS, Scottsdale.

P. G. POLLARD, Esq., Devonport.

T. J. EDDINGTON, Esq., Bagdad.

REV. V. G. BRITTON, Perth.

ANDREW KIRK, Esq., Hobart.

MRS. A. E. HUTCHINSON,  
Bothwell.

COL. S. HAWLEY, Evandale.

MRS. F. A. CALLAWAY,  
Wynyard.

MISS T. CASH, Richmond.

MRS. A. E. BENNETT, Ross.

MISS JANET E. LAMB,  
Westbury.

MRS. D. M. ANNEAR, Launce-  
ton.

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JUNE 30 - - 1937



# Tasmanian Institution

FOR THE

## BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB

1937-38.



### Patron:

His Excellency Sir Ernest Clark, K.C.B., C.B.E., Governor of  
Tasmania.

### Board of Management:

President: Professor E. Morris Miller, M.A., Litt.D.

Vice-President: Hon. L. M. Shoobridge.

Honorary Treasurer and Chairman Finance and Industrial  
Committee: Captain K. A. Ogilvy.

Chairman Education and House Committee: G. V. Brooks, Esq.,  
Director of Education.

Members: Mesdames D. C. McLaren, T. H. Goddard, T. C. Simpson;  
Miss M. B. Clarke; Hon. W. A. Woods; Captain F. Marriott,  
C.M.G., M.H.A.; Bernard R. Walker, Esq.; T. A. Bnmford, Esq.;  
G. A. Walch, Esq.; W. A. Downie, Esq.; Dr. J. Bruce Hamilton,  
M.B., Ch.M.

### Honorary Professional Officers:

Physician: Dr. C. F. Hodgkinson, M.B. Aurist: Dr. B. Hiller, M.B.,  
B.S. Oculists: Dr. W. Counsell, M.B., B.S.; Dr. G. H. Hogg,  
M.B., C.M., M.D.; Dr. J. L. R. Carter, M.B., B.S. Ophthalmic  
Surgeon: Dr. J. Bruce Hamilton, M.B., Ch.M. Neurologist: Dr.  
E. A. Rogers, M.B., Ch.M. Pathologist: Dr. J. H. B. Walch, M.B.  
Dentists: Messrs. McChristie and Ilean. Dispensers: Messrs.  
Palfreyman and Son. Solicitors: Messrs. Simmons, Wolfhagen,  
Simmons, and Walch.

### Staff:

Superintendent and Secretary: Lieut.-Colonel L. H. Payne, D.S.O.,  
V.D., J.P. Accountant and Cashier: Miss M. Lennane. Matron:  
Miss L. M. Lyne. Sub-Matron: Miss B. M. Fisher. Officer in  
Charge of Factory: Mr. T. Parkinson.

### Educational:

Head Teacher: Miss U. Salmon. Teachers: Mr. F. S. Smith, L.A.B.,  
Misses I. Salvado, R. Gratton, R. J. Coward. Music: Mr. F. S.  
Smith, L.A.B.

### Welfare Officers:

Adult Blind: Miss B. Rowntree.

Adult Deaf and Dumb: Mr. M. Grueber.



# BEQUESTS and DONATIONS of £50 and over

	£		£
1894 R. Corsnip Smith	150	1928 Anonymous .. .. .	100
1900 Mrs. Drysdale .. .	200	Mrs. Susannah Agnes Moore .. . . .	466
1901 Miss Ada Grey Wilson	500	1929 Anonymous .. . . .	100
1902 Joseph Batt .. . . .	20	Thomas Normoyle .. .	100
1904 "One Who Sympathises"	100	Alfred Ibbott .. . . .	500
1905 Mrs. A. H. Ball .. . . .	150	Anonymous .. . . .	100
1908 C. D. Haywood .. . . .	25	1930 T. & C. Bourke Memorial Trust .. . Annual Income	
1909 Mrs. E. B. Griggs .. . .	989	David Barclay .. . . .	500
Robt. Kidd .. . . .	100	-36 Robert Cairns .. . . .	3,400
1910 Miss A. M. Smith .. . .	470	-34 Miss Catherine Jones ..	100
1912 Mrs. L. Rogers .. . . .	2,000	Miss Florence Sprent ..	50
Miss Cleburn .. . . .	100	1931 J. G. Mitchell .. . . .	250
Mrs. Whitehead .. . . .	250	-36 Elizabeth Bourke .. . .	426
1913 A. H. Kennedy .. . . .	100	Mrs. S. M. Belcher .. . .	725
1914 John Bailly .. . . . . .	25	1932-37 Miss Elizabeth Fall ..	4,299
G. S. Crouch .. . . . .	50	-33 Miss Maria Allen .. . .	133
1915 Miss L. Macdonald .. . .	500	Miss Rebecca Cox .. . .	50
1916 Miss Margaret Brumby ..	1,922	Mrs. Anne Dowling .. . .	100
Martin Jackson .. . . .	80	A. Spencer Brownell .. . .	50
1917 Miss Emma Mills .. . . .	300	Henry Bourke .. . . . .	50
1919 E. Clutterbuck .. . . .	500	1933 Miss L. L. Whitesides ..	100
1920 Herbert Head .. . . . .	211	1934 Miss Rose Annie Coombe ..	50
T. Fawdry .. . . . . .	50	Claude Septimus Clerk ..	500
F. W. Piesse .. . . . .	50	F. G. Harvey Latham .. .	250
Miss Letitia Marshall ..	974	Mrs. S. L. Atkinson .. . .	100
Monsignor Gilleran .. . .	25	1935 George A. Green .. . . .	250
J. Grigg .. . . . . . .	71	Mrs. Emily Bidencope ..	100
J. Davidson .. . . . . .	100	Mrs. Susan Ward .. . . .	200
1922 Mrs. Helen Seabrook ..	150	Miss Amy Amelia Allen .. . . . Annual Income	
1923 Mrs. M. L. Palfreyman ..	100	1936 Mrs. Catherine Hartnoll *2,000	
1924 Mrs. M. Backhouse .. . .	100	Mrs. Margaret Annie Payne .. . . . . .	20
1927 Wm. Rousell .. . . . .	100	Miss C. M. Box .. . . .	*45
Mrs. Elizabeth Sarah Scott .. . . . . .	100	1937 Mrs. Sophie Chalk .. . .	*374
Mrs. John H. Hart .. . .	200	* Incomplete.	



# FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Tasmanian Institution FOR THE BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Board of Management presents the Fortieth Annual Report for the year ending 30th June, 1937.

## BLIND JUBILEE.

The year has been particularly notable for the fact that it completed 50 years since the commencement of work for the blind in Tasmania in 1887, when the "Society for the Benefit of the Tasmanian Blind" was formed. A brief history of its growth and development appears as an appendix to this Report. Life Membership was conferred upon Mr. Andrew Kirk, of Hobart, the sole surviving Member of the original Committee.

Celebration of the occasion was inaugurated by the holding of a conference of organisations for the blind at Hobart in February, when representatives of most of the mainland institutions and libraries honoured the state by their presence. Further reference to the Conference is made below.

This was followed by a well-attended garden fete in the Institution grounds on 13th February, organised and conducted by the Hobart Auxiliary Committee, with the assistance of a number of returned soldiers and the Returned Soldiers' Memorial Band.

With the object of promoting state-wide celebration of the Jubilee, the main effort was concentrated on "Sunshine" week, observed between 12th and 19th April. Each day during that period, special articles were published in the Press, and broadcast talks were given. The week culminated in "Sunshine" week church services on 18th April, and special "Sunshine" week lessons in the schools throughout the State on the concluding day. Grateful acknowledgment is made of the readiness with which the co-operation of the Press, broadcasting stations, church, and educational authorities was forthcoming. As a result, the Board feels that the work of the Institution and the problems of its handicapped associates are better and more widely understood and appreciated than ever before, and that definite progress has been made towards that ideal condition in which generosity is not only prompted by sentiment but is also linked up with a definite sense of social responsibility and human understanding.

The Board enters upon the second half-century with the stimulation of the advancement made in the last decade. Numbers of blind and deaf for whom employment is provided in the Institution's factory have nearly doubled. Factory wages and augmentation of earnings for the year just ended amounted to £1,111, compared with £2,203 ten years ago. In addition, over 100 other blind and deaf persons who were then left to their own wholly inadequate resources have received periodical service in many and varied forms, the cost of which last year amounted to £197, but the value of which to the participants cannot be measured in terms of money.

## INTERSTATE CONFERENCE OF BLIND INSTITUTIONS AND LIBRARIES.

The following institutions and libraries accepted the invitation of the Board to participate in an Interstate Conference:—

Queensland School for the Deaf and the Blind; N.S.W. Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind; Sydney Industrial Blind Institution; Victorian Association of Braille Writers; Royal Institution for the Blind, South Australia; and the Victoria Institute and Industrial School for the Blind, Perth.

Delegates were welcomed by the President, and entertained during the visit by the Institution and by Hon. L. M. Shoobridge.

Members of the Board and Officers of the Institution attended the various sessions of the Conference, and took full advantage of the opportunity of exchanging views with the visitors. The interest taken by members of the Hobart and Launceston Auxiliary Committees, several members of which also made it convenient to be present, was a pleasing feature from the local point of view.

A most valuable contribution to the proceedings of the Conference was made by Drs. J. Bruce Hamilton and W. D. Counsell, in the form of a paper on the Causes and Prevention of Blindness in Tasmania, accompanied by a series of recommendations. These were ultimately submitted to the National Health and Medical Research Council, the first session of which was being held at the same time.

The adoption by the Federal and State Health authorities of the measures recommended would go far towards reducing the present high proportion of blindness which is preventable. This is said to be 40 per cent., and the economic value of prevention is a matter of national importance and concern.

Drs. Hamilton and Counsell, by drawing the attention of all Federal and State health officers to the matter, have rendered a signal national service, and the outcome of their recommendations is awaited with great interest.

Other recommendations of the Conference of direct importance to Tasmania aimed at the formation of a national body for the purpose of co-ordinating the work for the Australian blind, and at conferring on blind electors the right to vote, with the assistance of a relative or friend.

The Board desires to record its appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Federal Government, without which it is very doubtful whether the Conference could have been held.

### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

After two years of useful service as a Government Representative on the Board of Management, Mr. J. W. Clinch asked to be relieved of the appointment, and Mr. V. I. Chambers, LL.B., was selected to fill the vacancy. Mr. G. A. Walch returned from a visit overseas, and Dr. J. Bruce Hamilton left in March on a visit to England.

A signal honour came to Tasmania in the award to Dr. Bruce Hamilton by the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital (Moorfields Eye Hospital) of the Gifford Edmonds Memorial Prize of £100, for his essay on "The Significance of Heredity in Ophthalmia." This prize is awarded every two years, and is open for world-wide competition.



## SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

Changes have occurred in this department as shown in the following table:—

	Blind		Sight-Saving		Deaf		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
On Roll 1/7/36 . . . .	4	3	—	1	12	5	25
Enrolled during year	—	—	—	1	4	—	5
Discharged . . . . .	2	—	—	1	2	—	5
Remaining 30/6/37	2	3	—	1	14	5	25

The diminution in the number of blind pupils the Board hopes is due to the effective prophylactic measures at birth, and to wider understanding of preventive action. In the absence, however, of any provision for compulsory notification of blindness, no certainty can be felt that contact has been established with every blind child in the state. According to the 1933 census figures of blindness and deafmutism, there were in Tasmania seven blind children (6 boys and 1 girl) between 5 and 15 years of age. At that time there were ten pupils (6 boys and 4 girls) between those ages in the blind class at the Institution's school.

These figures appear to support the belief that all the teachable blind children of school age in the State are recorded on the books of the Institution.

The Board feels that useful service could be performed by extension of what is known as the sight-saving class, consisting of pupils suffering from defective vision not sufficiently acute to demand instruction by the special means employed for the blind, but so serious as to render attendance at an ordinary school inadvisable on account of the danger of further impairment of their sight. In some overseas countries, special classes in ordinary schools are established in large centres of population, and representations have been made in this direction to the Education Department in this State. The Board considers that such service as the Institution can render should be reserved for children from country centres. Much more could be done if it could be made possible for children in country schools to be examined periodically for defective vision. In the absence of such examination, however, cases come to notice only through accidental channels.

The range of subjects in which manual training is imparted now includes working in papier mâché by the blind pupils, and artificial flower making by the deaf. Each of these activities is of special art value to the children by whom they are practised. Plans are being made also for the inclusion of poker work for the deaf.

Useful instruction is imparted to blind girls in simple forms of cookery, and the facility with which some of them have mastered the making of plain dishes indicates that blindness is not an insuperable bar to such forms of domestic activity.

Two deaf boys attend the carpentry and joinery class at the Senior Technical College. The senior deaf girl, however, is unfortunately debarred from attending the domestic science course on account of her inadequate range of language, due to application for her admission to the school not being made until she was nearly ten years of age.

Legislation recently passed in England reduces the age at which the education of deaf children must commence from 7 years to 5 years, and the Board hopes that similar legislative provision will soon be made in this State. If to this provision is added compulsory notification this community can well feel that most of what is possible in the best interests of blind and deaf children is being done.

During the year, Miss M. Wright, of the teaching staff, was granted long leave to visit England, while Miss V. Percy-Dove was transferred to the Teacher's Training College. Their places were taken by Miss R. Gratton, from the South Australian Institution for the Blind and the Deaf and Dumb, and Miss J. Coward.

The inclusion in the list of recipients of the Coronation Medal of the name of Mr. F. S. Smith was a well merited recognition of many years of conscientious and unselfish service as a teacher of blind children, almost since the inception of the School.

### HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE BLIND.

W. Sonners completed his second year at the Hobart State High School, and continues to earn pleasing reports for his grit and determination. At the final examination in December, 1936, he was placed 18th in a class of 47, gaining an average of 63 per cent., the class average being 58 per cent. He is now working for the Intermediate Examination in December next.

Mr. W. F. Truscott completed the second year of the Arts Course at the University of Tasmania, gaining passes in French I., History II., and English II. Provision was made by the Education Department for Mr. Truscott's admission to the Teacher's Training College in January, and he hopes to complete the qualification for the degree of Bachelor of Arts at the examination at the end of this year.

The Board heartily congratulates the two students named on the success so far gained, and compliments them upon the example afforded by their courage and tenacity of purpose.

### HOUSE DEPARTMENT.

It was decided to adopt a uniform school dress for the pupils, and the boys and girls made their first appearance in the new blazers, tunics, and head gear at the distribution of prizes at St. James' Hall at the end of the final term for 1936. The neatness and attractiveness of the colour of the garments were enhanced by the embroidered school badge, and occasioned widespread and favourable comment.

Frequent visits to the School were paid during the year by Members of the Education and House Committee, and among the many measures taken for the comfort and care of the children has been the provision of a sunroom in place of an open balcony. The dormitories, staff quarters, and corridors on the upper floor of the School building were recoloured and painted. The whole of the expense was borne by the Institution.

The Matron, Miss L. M. Lyne, was granted six months leave of absence on account of ill-health. The Board is pleased to report her resumption of duty fully restored to health. During Miss Lyne's absence, Miss A. M. Duffy was appointed Acting-Matron. The resignation of Miss G. Lyne as Sub-Matron was received in August, and Miss B. M. Fisher was appointed to the vacancy.

## LORD NUFFIELD GIFT.

The Board is pleased to report that the Institution benefited from the munificence of Lord Nuffield. £100 was allocated by the Mayor of Launceston, from the amount at his disposal, towards the annual quota of the Launceston Committee, while the Hobart Committee appointed by the Lord Mayor to apportion the amount made available to Hobart allotted £200 to the Institution. To the latter amount was attached the condition that it should be applied in the children's section of the Institution. The method of employing the gift to the best advantage was referred to the Education and House Committee for consideration and report.

## INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.

The following table shows the changes which took place in the personnel:—

	BLIND		DEAF		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
On Roll 1 7 36 . . . . .	29	3	6	—	38
Admitted during year . .	—	1	—	—	1
Retired . . . . .	2	—	—	—	2
Discharged . . . . .	2	—	1	—	3
Remaining 30 6 37 . . . .	25	4	5	—	34

Concern has long been felt as to how best to make provision for blind and deaf operatives becoming unemployable through age or infirmity. In isolated instances in the past, small allowances were granted to those who were obliged to relinquish employment on account of old age, but no definite scheme for retirement had been adopted. During the year, however, it was decided to establish a definite plan for the retirement of handicapped employees, and the retiring age was fixed at 65 years. The scheme provides for the payment of a weekly retiring allowance, sufficient to bring the recipients' total income from all sources to 30s. per week. In addition to having a sound economic basis, it should enable old employees to enjoy their declining years with more freedom from financial anxiety than hitherto. Two operatives retired under the scheme during the year, and a third is due to retire during the new financial period.

Liberal provision has existed for many years for sick leave, and the operatives, through their own organisation, succeeded some years ago in establishing their own medical union, which ensures medical attention and medicine.

The provision made now by the Board for their retirement completes in a satisfactory manner the service of the Institution to those handicapped members of society who pass through its workshop.

Working exhibits, showing the process of manufacture of brushware and mats, were arranged at the Hobart Show in October and at the Launceston Exhibition in February. Such displays provide an effective means of demonstrating some of the avenues of employment open to the blind, and invariably excite considerable interest.

In order to render the approaches to and surroundings of the factory perfectly safe, proposals have been under consideration aiming at the provision of an even permanent surface to all paths, etc., within the factory grounds, and it is hoped that the coming year will see these plans put into effect.

In anticipation of increased prices of raw materials, purchases were £270 higher than for the previous period, and stocks in hand at the end of the year were correspondingly greater. Sales were lighter by £268 than for the last period, but the total amount of £4,527 compared favourably with that for preceding years.

The effectiveness of the retail depot in Bathurst Street from the sales point of view has been considerably affected by changes in recent years in the character of neighbouring business establishments. In a more central situation, casual retail sales would be much increased.

The cost of the department for the year was £561, which is £380 higher than for the previous year. Much of this is attributed to the keenness of competition met from other manufacturers, and to rising prices of materials.

### BLIND WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

Development of work under this Department has proceeded steadily, and results have amply justified its establishment.

Visits have been paid by Miss Rowntree, the welfare officer for the adult blind, to the blind in Launceston and country districts as frequently as the demands on her services for the High School and University students would permit. The work of visiting and helping the adult blind of Hobart is undertaken by three part-time assistants, two sighted and one blind, who, between them, devote eight half-days per week to this work. Valuable service is also rendered in this department by voluntary helpers, such as one friend who undertakes to visit and read to two blind women each week, others who make their cars available for the transport of blind members to and from the weekly social gatherings of the blind, and the girls of private schools in Hobart who embroider articles in the making of which blind women have had some part. Some of these articles are disposed of at the Institution's shop, and in the sale of the remainder, local committees have rendered effective help.

Full use continues to be made of the radio sets made available to the blind in isolated parts. Since its inauguration, this service has been made available to a total of 40 listeners, to whom it has proved a boon of great value.

### TALKING BOOK.

As the result of the appeal conducted through the columns of "The Mercury" and which was announced in the last Report, a sum of £106 was raised for the special Talking Book Fund. Two electrically-operated machines have been obtained, together with the first instalment of a library of records. These have been subjected to a local test, and have proved quite satisfactory. Two other machines of a different type, one of which is manually operated and will be for use where electric power is not available, and a further instalment of records, have been ordered. The Board proposes to supply machines at cost price to the blind who are in a position to bear the expense, and in other cases to make machines available on loan. Records will be circulated to all Members of the Talking Book Library without charge.



## ADULT DEAF.

The outstanding event of the year for the adult deaf was the participation by the Tasmanian deaf in the Biennial Interstate gathering of the deaf which assembled in Adelaide in December. The visitors were hospitably entertained, and the Board is indebted to the South Australian Deaf and Dumb Mission for the complete arrangements made for their reception and accommodation.

The Board has undertaken to co-operate with the Tasmanian Adult Deaf and Dumb Society in the arrangements for the next gathering of the deaf, which will be held at Hobart in December, 1938.

Industrially, the deaf in Tasmania are reasonably well situated, due to the co-operation of private employers with the Board. During the year, two boys, on leaving the school, were found employment, one in the glazing department of a timber and wood-working establishment and the other as a French polisher. Employment was also found for a third boy, who had endeavoured to earn a living at basket-making at home since leaving school three years ago. In each case the boys have acquitted themselves to the entire satisfaction of their employers.

Arrangements were also made for an ex-pupil of the School, not happily situated as a land worker, to enter a wholesale tin-smithing establishment.

In another case, a deaf mute, anxious for farm life, was put in touch with a farmer on the North-West coast, with the result that he is now engaged in farming pursuits in surroundings which will assist him to acquire the experience he desires.

## FINANCIAL.

The year has been marked by rather more than the usual degree of financial anxiety. For the first time for ten years it was found necessary to arrange with the bank for a substantial overdraft, the amount rising as high as £900 in May. The necessity for this was due to an unusual lag in revenue in the earlier part of the year, combined with the exceptionally heavy demands for factory stocks and for maintenance of the school building.

In an effort to liquidate the overdraft, and in the hope of being able to commence the new financial period with a cash balance for immediate needs equal to that in hand in July, 1936, a special appeal was made during the last three months of the year. The response was such that the bank account was again in credit at the end of June, but not to the same satisfactory extent as 12 months earlier. This position was foreseen, and it is gratifying to report that as a result of a Queen Carnival, conducted by the Hobart Auxiliary Committee, but not included until after the closing of the accounts for the year, immediate anxiety for the new financial period has been dispelled.

After providing for depreciation and reserves, the accounts disclose a net loss of £407 on the year's working. The annual subsidy provided by Parliament is still £150 less than in pre-depression years, and the attention of the Government has been drawn to the increased extent to which the services of the Institution have been called upon, as related in the final paragraph of that section of this Report dealing with the Blind Jubilee. Adequate recognition of this progress by the Government, in the form of an increased subsidy, would not only relieve the Board of some financial anxiety, but would also be a gesture of richly deserved encouragement to local committees throughout the State.

## LEGACIES.

Testamentary gifts were received from the estates of the undermentioned deceased friends of the Institution:—

Robert Cairns (final distribution), £441 7s. 10d.; Elizabeth Bourke, £30; Miss C. M. Box, £45 7s. 9d.; Elizabeth Fall (final allocation), £29 11s. 3d.; Sophie Chalk, £374 1s. 3d.

In accordance with the long established policy of the Institution, these amounts have been invested in approved securities, thus perpetuating the spirit of the benefactions and building up an assured stream of revenue for the future development of the services of the Institution along the lines now established.

## LOCAL COMMITTEES.

The Board is again pleased to record another year of staunch and invaluable service by local committees throughout the State. These bands of tireless and unselfish workers have become an integral part of the organisation of the Institution. Efficient and dependable though their service has been in past years, they have set an even higher standard during the period under review.

In no less than 21 municipalities the full quota was reached, and in 18 of them it was exceeded. In two cases the quota was more than doubled. Assistance was forthcoming from 45 of the 49 municipalities, and only in 10 cases did the percentage fall below 50.

The Board acknowledges with a deep sense of obligation the important part taken by local committees in the year's work. It has been pleased to recognise consistent service of committees who have raised an average of 100 per cent. of the municipal quota for a period of 5 years, by the appointment of Life Members in the following municipalities:—

Longford, Rev. V. G. Britton; Bothwell, Mrs. A. E. Hutchinson; Evandale, Col. S. Hawley; Wynyard, Mrs. F. A. Callaway; Richmond, Miss T. Cash; Westbury, Miss J. E. Lamb.

Nominations are still awaited from Queenstown, Ross, and Devonport. Longford, Bothwell, Westbury, Ross, and Devonport have twice qualified for this distinction. Each of these municipalities has raised the full quota regularly for 10 years. This is an achievement of which they might well be proud, and on which the Board offers warm congratulations and thanks. It values highly their example, and appreciates the spirit of emulation prompted by such sterling service, of which evidence is not lacking in neighbouring municipalities.

At the suggestion of the Board, the Hobart Rose Day Committee adopted a constitution under which it assumed the style of the "Hobart Auxiliary Committee" of the Institution. It now meets regularly instead of spasmodically as hitherto, and has as its double objective the raising of funds for the purposes of the Institution and assisting the Institution in the attainment of any or all of its objects. The Board welcomes the closer link thus established with the members of this committee, which respond splendidly to the continuous demands made upon it during a particularly trying financial period. A great portion of the total of £775 raised in Hobart during the year was the result of its co-operation.

## HONORARY OFFICERS.

Acknowledgment is gratefully made of the services of the Honorary Officers of the Institution. Medical, dental, and pharmaceutical and legal assistance have been freely given. Thanks are also due to Dr. Cedric Duncombe for services rendered during the absence overseas of Dr. C. F. Hodgkinson.

## CONCLUSION.

With the valuable experience of the past, during which the policy and organisation of the Institution have steadily developed and crystallised in step with the growing sense of community responsibility for the handicapped members of society, the Institution enters upon the second half-century of work for the blind with definite hopes of further usefulness.

Efforts of the future should aim at the prevention, by regulation and public education, of every preventable case of blindness and deafness, and the fullest possible service to those sufferers who remain.

To relieve any handicapped person of the necessity of self-help is to render a marked dis-service, and to undermine and destroy character, but to encourage the utmost dependence upon self by supplying the means whereby independence may be attained, and by rewarding determined and courageous effort and tenacity of purpose, is to build towards the skies.

Much has been done. The general standard of usefulness, health, and happiness of the dwellers in physical darkness and silence is steadily rising. Much, however, yet remains to be done to raise it to the highest degree possible. This can best be accomplished and maintained by uniform growth and development, and only by the fullest degree of co-operation between the Institution, the general public, and the blind and the deaf and dumb themselves.

The Board cherishes the belief that the work in which the Institution is engaged occupies a position high in the regard of the people of Tasmania. Behind its own labours is the ever-present stimulus of the potentialities of the physically handicapped, and of the eagerness of so many of them to avail themselves of the services of the Institution. Ahead it sees its objective clearly defined, and although the path is somewhat obscured by financial uncertainty, it entertains no serious doubts for the future.

E. MORRIS MILLER, President.

L. H. PAYNE, Superintendent and Secretary.

Hobart, 27/9/37.

# THE MOVEMENT FOR THE BLIND IN TASMANIA

1887-1937.



A Paper read at the Conference of Australian Institutions and Library Organisations for the Blind, held at Hobart, February, 1937.

The story of the early years of the work for the blind in Tasmania is a stimulating one of dogged pursuit of an objective on the part of those long-sighted citizens who, undeterred by the failure of their first attempt to launch the movement on a permanent footing, quite soon in their second attempt saw the reason for their earlier lack of success.

In 1887, and, indeed, for some years longer, the blind of Tasmania were sent to institutions in other colonies to undergo educational and industrial training, and it is recorded in the Annual Report of the Southern Branch of the Tasmanian Blind Society, as late as the year 1894-95, that 11 blind were then at mainland institutions for this purpose. The cost was borne by the Government.

On the authority of the sole survivor of the original committee, Mr. Andrew Kirk, it may be stated that the actual founders of the movement for the blind in this part of Australia, were Rev. J. B. Woolnough, Dr. Bright, Messrs. Henry Vautin, Henry Court, and himself. These five citizens of Hobart met informally at the Y.M.C.A. Library, of which Mr. Vautin was Honorary Secretary at the time, and discussed the desirability of establishing an organisation for the purpose.

As an outcome of that discussion, the inaugural meeting was held at the Y.M.C.A. Hall on 19th April, 1887, when it was decided to form "The Society for the Benefit of the Tasmanian Blind." Of those present, only the following names have been preserved:—Mr. G. S. Crouch (Chairman of the meeting), Revs. J. B. Woolnough, J. W. Simmons, Messrs. Jno. Macfarlane, G. Fagg, M. Ward, A. Kirk, — Benson, J. G. Parker, G. Hiddlestone, W. M. Williams, Jno. Baily, C. D. Haywood, Dr. Bright, from whom the first Hobart Committee was formed. It is also recorded that Mr. E. Hawson, Revs. J. G. Millard and G. W. Sharp took part in the meeting. The following were chosen to be the first officers of the Society:—

Patrons: His Excellency Sir Robert Hamilton and Lady Hamilton,  
Sir Lambert Dobson and Lady Dobson.

Hon. Treasurer: Hon. William Crosby.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. E. Hawson.

It is interesting to note that this first meeting recognised the State-wide need, and decided to endeavour to establish a Northern Branch at Launceston. This was successfully accomplished at a meeting held on 13th May, 1887, following a visit to that City by Mr. Kirk.



To those who first undertook to see that the needs of the blind of Tasmania should be provided within the Colony, it appeared best not to concentrate the blind for instruction and training, but to provide a visiting teacher to wait on them in their own homes. Accordingly this policy was adopted at the outset, and a Mr. T. Mercer was appointed to act as the Society's first teacher.

The First Annual Report, published in "The Mercury" on 26th June, 1888, records that both the Moon and the Braille systems were included in the teaching that 390 lessons were given to 16 blind persons in Hobart and 350 in Launceston, the number of learners in this case not being stated. Industrial instruction appears to have been limited to a few lessons only, in chair-caning, netting, and halter-making. One of the first industrial pupils, Mr. C. Fewkes, it is pleasing to note, is still a regular Braille reader.

The Report also records that whereas according to statistics, the nature of which is not indicated, there were 185 blind in Tasmania, only 95 had so far been located, and of these, 44 were inmates of the Invalid Depot at Hobart. A note of regret is detected in the statement that no favourable reply had yet been given by the Government to the Society's representations for a subsidy. Indebtedness is acknowledged, however, to both the Government and the Main Line Railway Co. for free travelling facilities for the teacher over their respective railways. Subscriptions for the year amounted to £67 9s., while the only item of expenditure is the munificent salary of £59 6s. of the teacher, who frequently acted also as collector. The first year accordingly closed with a credit balance, an achievement not always accomplished in the years that were to follow.

The next year of the Society's work seems to have brought home to its members a realisation that Tasmanian experience was to follow that of other parts as regards home teaching in industrial occupations, for the Second Annual Report ("The Mercury," 5/7/89) acknowledges that "it is always considered that when the blind can be gathered, and the efforts of teachers confined to one building, more lasting good and ever-progressing improvement is to be realised." It then goes on to say, "The object of the Society is to carry on home teaching until the number of pupils warrants the establishment of an institution," ten being considered the minimum number to justify this important step.

At that early stage, one of the principal immediate objectives was clearly seen, although nine years were to elapse before the first industrial building was erected.

For some reason not recorded, but probably due to the removal of the teacher to other fields of operation on the mainland, a hiatus occurs between 1889 and 1894, during which period the work of the Society was suspended.

In February of the latter year, the anxiety of those interested in the resumption of work led to the appointment of Mr. S. D. Scown, from the North Adelaide Institution for the Blind, as itinerant teacher, and the Report published in September, 1894, records the successful resumption of the activities which had remained in abeyance. Continuous work in this State dates therefore from February, 1894.

Reports were published regularly from this date onward, and record the successive achievement of the objects in view, which were stated in the 1894 Report to be:—

1. To teach the Blind to read in the Moon type, and to read in the Braille type.
2. To teach the Blind, as far as it is possible with the limited means and conveniences available, mat-making, halter-making, chair-caning, and other work, and so help them to help themselves in earning their own living.
3. To ultimately establish workshops for the Blind at a common centre.
4. To help and encourage the Blind in every possible manner.
5. To assist the Deaf and Dumb also, as far as is possible and practicable.

Progress towards their attainment was marked in turn by the opening of the first workshop at 87 Bathurst Street in 1897, following a visit to the mainland by Mr. Scown, who by now had been promoted from teacher to superintendent; the formation of the Braille Writers' Association in 1899; the granting of a £ for £ subsidy in 1901; the separation of the educational and industrial departments in 1902; and the admission of deaf scholars in 1904. The enactment of legislation in 1905 providing for compulsory education of blind and deaf marked still further progress. The Tasmanian lead in adopting this enlightened measure only one of the remaining States has neglected to follow.

The following dates and periods tell their own tale of the patience and determination with which the early work in this State was advanced and facilitated, and speak volumes for the tenacity with which the committees of those days adhered to their task.

In 1889, the first application was made to the Government for a subsidy. Fourteen years were to elapse before this objective was attained. In 1889, workshops were considered to be necessary, but could not be established until eight years later in 1897.

Two more years were to pass before the first buildings of the Institution became an established fact, and a further two years until facilities were provided for the education of deaf and dumb children in 1904, ten years after the need first was recognised and recorded. This last marked the attainment of a range of activity beyond which the Institution was not destined to pass for over 20 years.

In 1926 commenced a movement which proved to be the first signs of an expansion of the scope of the Institution, and which, during the past ten years, has brought service in a variety of forms into the lives of many more of the Tasmanian blind.

The following paragraphs relate briefly in proper chronological sequence the development of the various activities which had been established up to that time, in the following order:—

Literary.

Industrial.

Educational.

## LITERARY.

As had been said, the earliest work undertaken was instruction in the use of the Moon and the Braille systems. The former seems to have held its own for some years, for it is on record that in 1898 the number of Moon readers exceeded that of the Braille students, and that in the following year 300 volumes in the library were almost equally representative of the two systems.

Until 1898, instruction in reading and writing was carried out by the visiting teacher, but the sources from which came the 300 volumes for the blind, which constituted the library, are not clear.

It was at this time, however, that the decision to erect the first building of the Institution was made by the Government of the day, and it was fitting that the building was determined upon as the Tasmanian National Memorial of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

The demands of the newly expanded department necessitated the appointment of a Superintendent, and the choice of the Committee fell upon Mr. S. D. Scown, who had enjoyed their confidence as visiting teacher since the resuscitation of the work in February, 1894.

Advantage was taken in 1897 of a visit to Tasmania by Miss Aston, a talented young blind lady, of Melbourne, to form a separate organisation for the supply and circulation of books and the maintenance of the library, and from the Braille Writing Classes formed by Miss Aston in Launceston and Hobart grew the local Braille Writers' Associations, which survive in the Tasmanian Braille Writers' Association, the story of whose activities is to be told separately.

Home teaching of the Braille system was continued until 1905, the use of the Moon system gradually diminishing and being ultimately abandoned for reasons of which no record remains. From that date forward, until 1926, when new life entered the movement, the activities of the Tasmanian Society for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, as it seems to have been re-named about 1897, were limited to the conduct of the factory and the school, and to the education and employment of such blind juveniles and adults as could attend at those departments.

## INDUSTRIAL.

The policy relating to this branch of work in the earlier days of the movement and that of more recent times make an interesting comparison. Referring to the Report for the year ending 31/1 1901, we find the following:—

"While our work must necessarily be a philanthropic one, we were determined that from the very outset it should be free from any pauperising tendency. In our workshops every worker was only to be paid for work done, and the rate of pay was to be strictly the current rate in other workshops. Blind people were to be taught to compete with others and earn their own living by their own exertions. All that we meant to do for them was to provide instruction and bear the expense of the waste of material inseparable from the attempt to teach them the industries carried on. A certain amount of help towards their maintenance was afforded by the Government in some cases, but this also was arranged to lessen each year for three years, and then cease altogether. Thus in every way we planned to make the blind workers as far as possible and as quickly as possible independent and self-supporting."

"It is not claimed that we have been entirely successful in every individual case, but the results have completely justified and confirmed us in the principles of action thus laid down. They have been shown to be practicable, and the remarks in our visitors' book show very plainly that the success attained is such as commends itself to others."

A blind survivor of those times relates that during 1905 he earned as a mat-maker, 10s. per week, at the rate of 6½d. per square foot, plus 2s. 6d. per week instruction fee for his services in teaching a learner, a total of 12s. 6d. The following year his earnings fell to 11s. 10d. per week, and he was obliged to turn his energies to the more remunerative pursuit of selling the products of the factory, his profit amounting to a maximum of 18s. per week. Hair-drafters received for their labours 6d. per lb., and bass broom-makers were paid 1d. per 16 knots.

Female workers were provided with accommodation and clothing, but received no pay, while male apprentices were also clothed, but were required to find their own accommodation, for which they received a boarding allowance of 10s. per week.

At that time, augmentation of earnings was unheard of, and the invalid pension but the blind man's pipe-dream.

Many years have now elapsed since accommodation was provided for any blind adult, and no woman employee of the Institution's industrial department who has reached adult years has an income, including her pension, of less than 40s. per week.

Male beginners are now paid at weekly rates in accordance with a fixed scale adopted several years since, the commencing rate varying with the age on admission, and reaching the maximum of 40s. on the termination of the period of preliminary service. This period ends at 21 years of age for ages of admission between 16 and 18, and is for 3 years in the case of those commencing after attaining 18 years of age.

Except where special circumstances exist, the income of the general male blind operative, apart from his invalid pension, is 40s., to which is added 5s. per week in the case of most of the married men.

The policy of the present day regarding the industrial department may be summed up as aiming at the provision of an opportunity for the employable blind to achieve as great a degree of independence through useful employment as their own ability and the resources of the Institution will permit. The small, though increasing, number who are now endeavouring to acquire a home of their own is only one of the happy results.

For the last five years the practice has been adopted of allocating a portion of the weekly pay of each blind operative to an augmentation of earnings account, the percentage varying according to individual capacity. At present the proportion is arrived at somewhat arbitrarily, and it is hoped that circumstances will shortly permit of its being ascertained with greater certainty than is possible under prevailing conditions.

Provision has been made within the last few months for the retirement of handicapped operatives on reaching 65 years of age, or earlier should circumstances of health demand. In order that the declining years of employees so retired might be spent as far as possible in conditions of their own choosing, an allowance sufficient to assure a total weekly income of not less than 30s. is made available from Institution funds.



Net hours of labour are now 41½ per week, spread over five and a half days, exclusive of a full hour for lunch and a "smoko" break of 15 minutes each morning and afternoon.

The numbers of blind for whom it has been found possible to provide employment in this department have grown from 3 in 1897 to 32 at the present time, and the following table shows the rate at which the increase has been brought about:—

	Blind.	Deaf.
1897-98 . . . . .	3	—
1907-08 . . . . .	10	—
1917-18 . . . . .	17	2
1927-28 . . . . .	17	2
1935-36 . . . . .	32	6

Sighted and hearing staff consist of a foreman, one senior and one junior assistant.

Accommodation for the department has ranged from a small room behind the shop and a galvanised iron shed in the back yard of the first Bathurst Street premises to the well-lighted and ventilated and thoroughly comfortable quarters which the Moore Street factory has recently become. That the blind need air and light no less than do the sighted was not realised by the designer of the original interior, for with the low ceilings, inadequate ventilation, small rooms, and dismal passageway, conditions less calculated to promote cheerfulness and health and industrial efficiency would be difficult to imagine. Following on a report by an officer of the health and factories department, the Government was induced with no difficulty to improve the atmosphere of the department in more ways than one.

With the exception of a mat loom purchased some eight years or so ago and a new boring lathe recently installed, the plant of the department is antiquated in the extreme. None but the most essential machinery or equipment that cannot be operated by a blind person has been installed.

The principal present trades practised in the department are brush and mat-making, hair-drafting, and a very limited amount of basket-making.

Output is disposed of at prices governed chiefly by general outside market conditions, principally to Government departments, city corporations, and wholesale and retail merchants. Retail sales amount to perhaps 16 per cent. of total turnover, and are effected through the city depot of the Institution, and by the efforts of a partly blind expupil, employed for half his time as a canvasser for orders in the city and suburbs of Hobart.

Sales have grown as follows:—

1897-98 . . . . .	£180
1907-08 . . . . .	879
1917-18 . . . . .	2,653
1927-28 . . . . .	3,415
1935-36 . . . . .	4,795

Increasing numbers for whom employment must be found compel consideration of the need for new trades. Those most suitable for Tasmanian conditions appear to be the manufacture of fruit punnets, cane and seagrass furniture, and millet brooms. The installation of one or more of the boring machines designed for operation by the blind is also a measure that might be adopted with advantage.

## EDUCATIONAL.

The first year of the century saw the realisation of the hope for a Tasmanian School, which seems to have been first expressed in positive terms in the Report for 1894-95, although the need for such a school for blind children was no doubt envisaged when the objects of the Society, as expressed twelve months earlier, were under consideration.

Commencing with three children, whose first teacher for three years was Miss Alice Isherwood, herself blind, the school was housed in the original Memorial Building, in which the Industrial Department was also accommodated, and where the young women employed therein lived. For some time the dining-room was made also to serve the purposes of a classroom.

On the retirement of Miss Isherwood in 1903, due to ill-health, Mr. F. S. Smith, who had been associated with the Society for some three or four years as conductor of the blind choir, was appointed to the position. Mr. Smith, whose own sight had failed in early infancy, brought to his labours an understanding mind and a practical outlook acquired through years of patient and unremitting study, the foundations of which were laid by his father, a most widely respected officer of the Education Department.

To these qualities of Mr. Smith, the blind children who have passed through the Tasmanian school owe most of what they have acquired educationally. The story of the school is, in the main, the story of Mr. Frank Smith, and to the devotion and earnestness with which he has moulded the minds and characters of his young charges, this pen pays well-deserved tribute. He has spared no effort to keep abreast of educational development, and if he has had a fault it has been the modesty of his demands for expenditure on his school and its needs. There is indication, it is pleasing to note, of some improvement in this direction.

The premature withdrawal before the completion of their education of two of the early pupils in 1903, and the neglect of some parents or guardians to have their blind children educated, so emphasised the necessity of some measure of compulsion in the matter that in 1905 the principle of compulsory education for blind and other handicapped children was embodied in the Education Act.

In the work of the School, the usual equipment obtainable from a National Institute for the Blind, London, has been made full use of. The pupil, on admission, is introduced to the Braillette board and pins, then to a Braille writing machine, and "word-making and word-taking," the giant Braille being used only for the briefest possible period, and finally, to the Braille frame, guide, and style. Arithmetic slate and type, embossed maps and clock faces, compasses and spur wheels, and models of many descriptions are employed in the course of the normal primary curriculum. The soundness of the methods adopted in the School, and applied by Mr. Smith, with the assistance of sighted teachers, frequently out of school hours, is manifested in the success of the first two blind pupils presented for the scholarship examination for entrance to the State High School a little over two years ago.

In addition to standard forms of training, every pupil is taught the use of the typewriter, and this accomplishment has proved of great value to those who have embarked on High School and University courses.

In an endeavour to keep abreast of modern methods, the School has been equipped with the Pyke Glauser Braille machine, and the use of the older types will be gradually discontinued. Recently installed equipment includes also a Balding Diagram machine, by means of which reproductions of diagrams, maps, etc., may be provided for the use of students. Circumstances have so far not permitted of as extensive use being made of this device as had been expected.

Whether the present small number in the Blind School indicates a lasting diminution of juvenile blindness in this State cannot be established in the absence of any other than fortuitous ascertainment. In order that no case should be missed, the Tasmanian Institution has recommended to the Government, without avail so far, that blindness in children be made notifiable.

As one of the results of the appointment of Dr. J. Bruce Hamilton, already the Institution's Honorary Ophthalmic Surgeon, to the Board of Management, the beginnings of a sight-saving class were undertaken in 1933 and 1934. Since that time, five such children have been enrolled, of whom four have been discharged, after undergoing specialist treatment, to resume their studies at ordinary schools. How much of the improvement which made this possible was due to the rest from strain, through individual instruction with large type books, and how much to the skill of the other professional hands through which the children passed, it is difficult to say. Whatever may be the actual case, it is reasonable to believe that the benefit, if not a lasting one, is of such a character as to defer, if not actually to prevent, ultimate blindness. The economic value of such experience is hard to estimate, but it must be considerable and of such extent as to justify continuance. Whether such classes should be associated with schools for the blind is open to doubt, but, in the absence of any such provision in normal-sighted schools, what is being done in this State must be preferable to the continued exposure of children retarded by defective sight to the risk of further and perhaps earlier impairment of what vision they have.

### WELFARE WORK.

A brief general reference only is necessary here to the expansion of the activities of the Institution in this State to include provision of some of the needs for the blind who, through distance, age, or infirmity, or for other good reasons, were unable to take advantage of the occupational facilities provided at the factory.

Just how the work had its genesis is immaterial, but the first recorded reference to the coming development occurs in the Report of the Institution for the year 1926-27, in which mention is made of a mutual arrangement between the Institution and the Hobart Braille Writers' Association, under which the latter body conducted, in one of the school rooms, the first of the weekly social gatherings, which have since that time been one of the most enjoyable features of the community life of the Hobart blind.

The decision to erect the present Braille Library, for which funds had been raised by Braille writers and Braille readers, was hastened by the success of these gatherings.

Arising out of and stimulated by their success, grew a realisation that in other parts of the State there must be blind men and women for whom no service was available beyond the use of books circulated from the Braille Library, to such of them as had acquired and retained the art of reading Braille.

In the course of the next two years, therefore, two ventures were undertaken, the first to establish a radio service to the blind in isolated parts of the State, under which small radio receiving sets were supplied and maintained at no cost to the users, and the second to extend the functions of the Launceston Committee of the Institution to include some form of social work for the blind in that city. Ready assistance in both tasks was forthcoming from Toc H. Although the social work in Launceston is at the moment at a low ebb, due to the decrease of an unusually high percentage of those in whose interests the task was undertaken, many of whom were of advanced age at the outset, those who sacrificed time and effort and often personal convenience to the work have the satisfaction of knowing that a measure of brightness was thereby introduced into the last years of lives that in many cases must have been unimaginably drab and colourless.

As a direct result of the representations made during this time, the Launceston Municipal Council granted to the blind of that city the same privilege of free travel on the trams as had been enjoyed by the Hobart blind for many years.

Of the further details of the work of the welfare department, delegates will hear when the time comes for Miss Rowntree to read her interesting and informative paper.

## FINANCIAL.

To every organisation here represented, methods of financing the work in other parts cannot fail to be of interest.

In this State, apart from proceeds of sale of factory products, income is derived from two main sources, viz., Government and public.

Since the inception of the work, the heaviest burden has fallen upon the public, and generously has it been borne. From £67 in the first year to £1,900 in the latest financial period, the public, when called upon, has never failed to respond.

For many years a paid collector was employed, but for the past ten years reliance has been placed entirely upon the voluntary efforts of a splendid body of municipal local committees, each of which is allotted an annual quota, the raising of which, each year for five years, entitles the committee to nominate a life member of the Institution. The means of raising the quota are left entirely to the discretion of each committee, and range from direct subscriptions to annual flower shows.

Committees are visited by an officer of the Institution as frequently as circumstances permit, and every important centre in the State has been visited by a demonstration class from the school, with most encouraging results, both in the education of the public and the stimulation of public interest in the work and in the encouragement it afforded to members of committees.

As has been related, the Government subsidy, on a £ for £ basis, has been paid regularly since 1901, ranging from £250 in that year, to £200 two years later, £300 in 1906, £400 in 1921, to £1,500 in 1924-5. Depression years saw the amount reduced first to £1,350 then to £1,200, at which figure it remained for 3 years. £150 of the reduction was restored two years ago, and the subsidy now stands at £1,350. In addition to this, substantial annual contributions have been received



from the Government towards the cost of maintenance of resident pupils, ranging from £79 in 1904-5 to as high as £1,763 in 1921-22. Amounts received on this account are now calculated at the rate of £18 per head per annum, and last year realised £120.

Steadily increasing revenue from interest on investment stimulates the hope that some day the Institution might be in a position of affluence. The £827 received from this source last year was earned by £23,300, invested mostly in Commonwealth Loan.

Did time permit, an interesting tale might be told of such matters as the co-operation of education and university authorities, of teachers who acted in a coaching capacity, and of the courage and tenacity of the student now in the third year of a university arts course; the development and changes in the constitution of the Institution; its incorporation; the troughs in the curve of progress; and the reaction of the blind to suggested traffic precautions.

This paper, however, pretends to be nothing beyond a broad outline and general picture of what has been accomplished. The conduct of the movement enjoys the undoubted confidence of the Government and the public. The most cordial relations exist between the Institution and the blind themselves, whose contentment and trust have been developed and won by the encouragement of their own sociological growth, as expressed in the existence and regular functioning of such organisations as the Braille Mutual Progress Society, the Blind Cricket Club, and the Mutual Benefit Society, formed some time since by the blind operatives of the factory, and to which their deaf mute colleagues were generously admitted, and out of which grew the Blind Medical Union.

Not the least pleasing fact that should be recorded is the readiness with which advice and information are forthcoming from kindred organisations on the mainland. At several stages in the history of the Tasmanian movement, the services of instructors and other officers have been obtained from other parts of Australia, and the Tasmanian debt on this score is gratefully acknowledged.

What the future holds in store is beyond forecasting. It is not too early to hope for the speedy adoption of measures aiming at a substantial reduction in the number of cases of preventable blindness, and that circumstances will permit the compilation of a complete and accurate register of the Tasmanian blind, and it is not too much to believe that such light and comfort and encouragement as have their source in the services of the Institution will be disseminated with steadily widening range and increasing effect over the whole of the blind population of the State.

# TASMANIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB

MANUFACTURING, TRADING, AND WORKING ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1937.  
FACTORY AND TRADING AND PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Opening Stock, 1/7/36	1,630	4	7	By Cash Sales	845	14 10
" Purchases	2,387	4	1	" Credit Sales	3,796	9 6
" Depreciation of Plant	5	14	10			
" Wages	2,594	12	7			
" Rent	90	0	0	" Less Sales Tax	4,642	4 4
" General Expenses	240	3	1		115	15 7
" Discount Allowed	22	10	2			
" Repairs	17	3	5	" Stock at 30/6/37	4,526	8 9
				" Loss Carried Down to General Revenue Account	1,899	4 2
					561	19 10
	£6,987	12	9		£6,987	12 9

## SCHOOL WORKING ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Wages and Salaries	632	16	11	By Maintenance Contributions—		
" Purchases—				Government	£390	0 0
Foodstuffs	£309	3	6	Parents	67	8 4
Clothing	66	6	0			
				" Loss Carried Down to General Revenue Account	1,031	9 1
" Depreciation—Furniture and Equipment	375	9	6			
" Light, Fuel, etc.	40	4	9			
" General Expenses	174	15	10			
" Repairs and Replacements	101	2	1			
" Doubtful Debts Reserve—	143	18	3			
Maintenance Fees	13	19	6			
Clothing Debtors	6	10	7			
	£1,488	17	5			
					£1,488	17 5

# TASMANIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB

## GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Loss on Factory Working .. .. .	561	19	10			
.. Loss on School Working .. .. .	1,031	9	1			
.. Australian Conference .. .. .	216	5	3			
Less Grant by Committee of Wealth Government .. .. .	150	0	0			
Organising Expenses .. .. .	1	5	3			
.. Management and Office Salaries and Expenses .. .. .	294	8	5			
.. Doubtful Debts Reserve .. .. .	1,086	9	9			
.. Depreciation—	14	6	9			
Office Furniture .. .. .	6	13	2			
Office Welfare Furniture .. .. .	1	0	9			
.. Contingencies Reserve .. .. .	50	0	0			
.. Welfare Expenses re Blind .. .. .	464	11	7			
.. Augmentation of Wages re Blind .. .. .	1,517	10	3			
.. Welfare Expenses re Deaf .. .. .	32	13	7			
.. Rosetta Farm—						
Insurance and Rates .. .. .	16	12	11			
Reserve for Depreciation on Building .. .. .	100	0	0			
£5,179 1 4						
To Balance Brought Down .. .. .	497	19	6			
.. Balance Transferred to Capital Account .. .. .	483	17	10			
£891 17 4						
By Government Subsidy .. .. .				1,550	0	0
.. Proceeds Entertainments .. .. .				50	9	5
.. Local Committees .. .. .				1,467	15	2
.. Hobart Auxiliary Committee .. .. .				421	11	0
.. Subscriptions and Donations .. .. .				569	5	2
.. Rental Tennis Court .. .. .				7	16	5
.. Interest Earned .. .. .				863	19	7
.. Rosetta Farm Rent .. .. .				100	5	0
4,771 1 10						
.. Net Loss Carried Down .. .. .				407	19	6
£5,179 1 4						
By Legacies .. .. .				891	17	4
£891 17 4						

# TASMANIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE, 1937.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Sundry Creditors .. .. .	303 7 11	E.S. and A. Bank Ltd. ....	297 16 10
Rent in Advance .. .. .	13 11 8	Hobart Savings Bank .. .. .	15 6 11
Reserve for Repairs—Rosetta Farm ..	747 6 3	Advance to Blind .. .. .	0 10 0
Contingencies Reserve Account .. ..	50 0 0	Investments—	
Special Donation Fund .. .. .	317 13 3	£15,190 Commonwealth	
Capital Grant from State Government (Land and Buildings) .. .. .	10,525 0 0	Inscribed Stock (at cost) .. .. .	£15,052 4 8
Elizabeth Fall Endowment Fund .. .. .	3,335 16 8	£3,300 Commonwealth	
Capital Account—		Inscribed Stock (re E. Fall Bequest) .. .. .	3,335 16 8
Balance 1st July, 1936 ..	£22,412 11 6	Loan on Mortgage .. .. .	1,000 0 0
Add Surplus for Year ..	483 17 10	All Saints' Church De-benture .. .. .	5 0 0
	22,896 9 4	Hobart Corporation De-bentures .. .. .	550 0 0
		Hobart Corporation In-scribed Stock .. .. .	500 0 0
		Braille Writers' Association .. .. .	50 0 0
		Add Interest Accrued ..	20,493 1 4
			138 4 6
		Sundry Debtors .. .. .	550 17 4
		Less Doubtful Debts Reserve	121 9 6
		Outstanding Collections Hobart (Auxiliary Committee) .. .. .	20,631 5 10
			429 7 10
			91 16 10

Outstanding Parents' Maintenance Fees . . . . .	37 5 0	
Less Reserve . . . . .	15 0 0	22 5 0
Outstanding Clothing Refunds		
Less Reserve . . . . .	39 6 11	
	30 0 0	9 6 11
Stock on Hand re Welfare		
Blind . . . . .	49 10 2	
Stock on Hand, General . . . .	1,899 4 2	
Plant . . . . .	28 14 2	1,948 14 4
Less 20 per cent. Depreciation	5 14 10	
Office and Welfare Office		
Furniture . . . . .	76 19 8	
Less 10 per cent. Depreciation	7 13 11	
Household Furniture . . . . .	402 7 8	69 5 9
Less 10 per cent. Depreciation	40 4 9	
Rosetta Farm and House . .	3,758 6 7	
Rosetta Plant . . . . .	5 0 0	3,763 6 7
Grants—Land and Buildings, etc., North Hobart . . . .		10,525 0 0
		<u>£38,189 5 1</u>

Examined and Certified to be Correct—

FRED W. BATT,  
Auditor-General.

Hobart, 11th March, 1938.

E. MORRIS MILLER, President.  
KENNETH A. OGILVY, Hon. Treasurer.  
L. H. PAYNE,  
Superintendent and Secretary.

# Tasmanian Institution for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb

## Summary of Subscriptions, Donations, etc.

(Excluding Legacies)

1st JULY, 1936, to 30th JUNE, 1937.

MUNICIPALITY.	Annual Quota.	Amount Received.			1936-37.	Percentage of Quota Raised. Av. for 1925-37 (11 years excluding 1928-29).
	£	£	s.	d.		
Gormanston .. ..	17	36	1	0	212.1	72.4
Table Cape .. ..	54	109	8	0	202.6	93.6
Scottsdale .. . .	28	52	4	6	186.5	92.6
Longford .. . .	50	80	6	0	160.6	121.0
Devonport .. . .	51	72	2	0	141.4	103.9
Glenorchy .. . .	42	58	8	8	139.1	130.4
Zeehan .. . . .	30	41	1	0	136.8	25.2
Brighton .. . .	24	31	9	1	131.1	82.4
Bothwell .. . .	22	25	11	6	116.0	107.2
Westbury .. . .	46	51	9	4	111.9	100.7
Latrobe .. . . .	36	40	3	2	111.5	76.5
Burnie .. . . .	56	61	2	9	109.2	98.8
Evandale .. . .	30	32	1	6	106.9	63.8
Hamilton .. . .	30	31	5	3	104.2	96.1
Penguin .. . . .	24	24	12	9	102.7	64.0
Ross .. . . .	16	16	5	11	101.9	145.3
King Island .. .	15	15	4	10	101.6	16.4
Hobart .. . . .	744	755	5	11	101.5	96.0
Launceston .. .	405	405	0	0	100.0	82.9
Port Cygnet .. .	28	28	0	0	100.0	78.5
Waratah .. . .	20	20	0	0	100.0	22.0
Esperance .. . .	21	20	17	0	99.3	60.7
Beaconsfield .. .	30	28	4	6	94.1	56.1
Oatlands .. . .	37	30	13	6	82.9	45.5
Strahan .. . . .	12	9	17	9	82.4	21.9
Green Ponds .. .	16	12	7	10	77.4	72.2
Fingal .. . . .	32	24	1	3	75.2	84.6
Portland .. . .	15	10	14	3	71.4	14.8
Ringarooma .. .	39	27	12	1	70.8	46.3
Circular Head ..	41	28	4	2	68.8	37.0
St. Leonards .. .	20	12	8	0	62.0	51.9
Clarence .. . .	20	11	19	0	59.8	68.1
Huon .. . . .	50	29	5	5	58.5	43.8
Leven .. . . .	45	25	14	6	57.2	68.1
Flinders .. . .	10	5	6	3	53.1	17.4
Campbell Town ..	30	14	4	0	47.4	58.0
George Town .. .	12	5	12	0	46.7	69.0
Queenstown .. .	37	9	7	10	25.4	73.0
New Norfolk .. .	44	9	12	7	21.0	37.8
Lilydale .. . .	24	3	12	3	15.1	9.7
Kingborough .. .	34	4	6	5	12.7	20.1
Deloraine .. . .	53	4	12	0	8.7	52.3
Richmond .. . .	18	1	10	0	8.3	56.6
Sorell .. . . .	21	0	7	0	1.7	19.1
Kentish .. . .	47	0	14	2	1.5	64.6
Glamorgan .. . .	12	—	—	—	—	55.1
Spring Bay .. .	9	—	—	—	—	16.3
Tasman .. . . .	6	—	—	—	—	12.1
Bruni .. . . .	6	—	—	—	—	7.4
Interstate .. . .	—	3	18	0	—	—



# THE THREE DEPARTMENTS

of the

## Tasmanian Institution

for the

# BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB

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*"Conquest pursues where courage leads the way"*

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### EDUCATION.

Special equipment for the Blind.

Language for the Deaf.

### INDUSTRIAL.

Occupation for Mind and Hands.

Self-dependence through the dignity of labour.

Economic usefulness.

### WELFARE.

Hope and encouragement in adversity.

Cheerful companionship in times of stress.

Restored self-confidence in moments of doubt.

Uplift of Mind and Spirit.

These and many other helpful services are brought to the blind and the deaf through the agency of the Institution and its organisation.

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Funds are always needed. No sum is too large to be fully employable, or too small to be welcome and useful.